

Claims

1. A surveillance device comprising a support constructed and arranged to be secured to a structure, a first image collection device secured to the support, a second image collection device and a servo motor, the second image collection device being moveable with respect to the support by the servo motor, the second image collection device having an optical axis whereby the servo motor is constructed and arranged to regulate the direction of the optical axis of the second image collection device.

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2. A surveillance device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first image collection device comprises plural camera devices, disposed to provide a substantially uninterrupted field of view.

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3. A surveillance device as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the first image collection device is fixed to the support in use and is constructed and arranged permanently to monitor a scene.

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4. A surveillance device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein data collected from the first image collection device are processed to automatically detect an event such as motion, and the result of such detection used to automatically control the servo motor when an event is detected.

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5. A surveillance device as claimed in any preceding claim, comprising a processor having a first port connected to receive data representatives of images collected by the first and second image collection devices, the second port connected to the servo motor for control thereof and a third port connected to a

data input/output interface device.

6. A surveillance device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the first and second image collection devices each include respective embedded processing circuitry, each embedded processing circuitry being connected to communicate with the first port of the processor device.

5 7. A surveillance device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the processor device is operable to monitor data received from the embedded processing device of the first image collection device and, in respect thereto, to supply commands to the servo motor via the second port.

10 8. A surveillance device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the processor device converts data from the first and second image collection devices using a communications protocol into a pulse stream for output at the third port.

15 9. A surveillance device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the second image collection device has a zoom input, and a field of view is variable in dependence on a control signal at the zoom input.

20 10 A surveillance device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the second image collection device has a tilt input, and a field of view is variable in dependence on a control signal at the tilt input.

25 11. A surveillance system comprising a surveillance device in accordance with any preceding claim in combination with a computer remote from the

surveillance device, the system further comprising a communications device interconnecting the surveillance device and the remote computer.

5 12. A surveillance system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the communications device comprises one or more of an Ethernet cable and a wireless communication system.

10 13. A surveillance system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the communication device comprises a wireless communication system, the wireless communication system comprising at least one of comprises a radio channel and a wireless LAN or “WiFi”.

15 14. A method of watching over an area using a surveillance device having a first spatially fixed image collection device and a second image collection device having a movable field of view, the device having an output for image data, the method comprising using the first image collection device to observe the area and automatically processing data from said first image collection device to detect movement; upon detection of movement, transferring signals from the first image collection device to the output, said signals representative of an image of at least a location where said movement takes place, and automatically controlling the field of view of the second image collection device to observe the location where said movement takes place; and, transferring signals from said second image collection device, said signals being representative of an image of said location where said movement takes place at 20 least while said movement is detected.

25 15. A surveillance device having plural spatially fixed camera devices, each

spatially fixed camera device having a fixed field of view, at least one further camera device, the at least one further camera device having a field of view movable in space, and processing circuitry operable in response to signals from at least one of said plural spatially fixed camera devices to cause the field of view of the at least one further camera device to include a given area.

5 16. A surveillance structure comprising a support having plural socket devices secured thereto each for receiving a respective camera and at least one further socket device for receiving a first camera, the or each further socket device being coupled to the support via a motor drive constructed and arranged to move the further socket device in rotation about the support, the surveillance device further comprising a respective electrical connector device for each socket device and further socket device, a further electrical connection device for receiving a device for communicating with said socket devices and further socket devices, and communication network circuitry interconnecting said electrical connector devices.

10 17. A surveillance structure according to claim 16, wherein the device for communicating with said socket devices and further socket devices comprises an intelligent hub device.

15 18. A surveillance device, system or structure according to any preceding claim wherein a processor runs a predictive control algorithm whereby previous locations of motion of an object of interest are used to determine where to aim a movable camera.

19. A surveillance device, system or structure according to any preceding claim having an "auto-ignore" feature to account for movement of features such as trees and plants, so that a moving camera is not sent to examine areas of no interest.